

under all the circumstances, he is not disposed to order a court-martial in the case. By a reference to the official reports of the engagement at Buena Vista, it is seen that the personal conduct of Colonel Bowles is extolled both by yourself and Colonel Davis, with whose regiment he was associated after the flight of his own. In nearly two weeks that the General remained at Saltillo, after the battle, he heard no syllable breathed against the reputation of Colonel Bowles; nor does he now believe that charges affecting his conduct in the battle can be substantiated. His own official report, based upon the best evidence he could obtain, speaks well of the conduct of Colonel Bowles, and he will not now consent to entertain the charges against him. They should have been preferred at an earlier day. Should Colonel Bowles desire a court of inquiry in this case, I am directed to say that you are authorized by the commanding general to grant it; but the general thinks it best for all concerned to let the matter drop.

"I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
"W. W. S. BLISS, A. A. Gen'l.  
"Brig. Gen. Wool, U.S.A., Commanding, &c.,  
"Buena Vista, Mexico."

I imagine that all the parties will come to the same conclusion that General Taylor did. They will think it best "to let the matter drop." General Taylor showed himself to be as wise on this occasion as he was brave on the field of Buena Vista.

I pass to the second branch, in which I alleged that General Taylor owed it to his official position, to his own self-respect, to a due degree of consideration for that enlightened portion of his countrymen who placed him in the first office in the country, or perhaps in the world, to have dismissed from a service as high and responsible as that occupied by General Lane any individual who had done what his bitterest and most vindictive enemies had never before done — call into question his personal honor and his personal veracity. Sir, if General Taylor had not done it, he would not have been such a man as the American people and the world has esteemed him to be.

I appeal to every honorable gentlemen here if there is one amongst them who would go to the extent of forbearance to which it is insisted that General Taylor should have gone. It may constitute a beautiful page in history to record that the King of France would never remember the injuries done to the Duke of Orleans, but I apprehend there is more of fancy in the assertion than there is of reality. Sir, it is true that during all Administrations in power, no President, without a loss